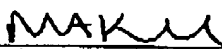


In the preceding Office Action, dated April 23, 2002, the Examiner required Applicant to elect one of thirty-four (34) patentably distinct species, and to elect one of five (5) identified linkages. Applicant simply does not understand how, on the one hand, the claimed invention can be considered patentably indistinguishable from the claims of the eleven (11) patents identified in the double patenting rejection, while on the other hand, each of the thirty-four (34) species were considered to be patentably distinct in the subject application. Also, there are various claim limitations that appear in either the claims of the subject application or the claims of one or more cited patents, but not both. For example, each independent claim (claims 10 and 11) in the subject application recites a stepping machine that generates an elliptical foot path having a horizontal component and a relatively greater vertical component. Applicant is unaware of any "stepping" or "vertical orientation" limitation in the claims of any of the cited patents.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the double patenting rejection, and/or that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative to discuss this rejection in greater detail.

Respectfully submitted,


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